

POWERFUL FLEET BEING CONSTRUCTED

Battleships and Cruisers
Now Being Built Pow-
erful in Armament.

IT EVEN EXCEEDS EVANS' SQUADRON

Four Powerful Armored Cruisers
and Seven Battleships, Now
Being Built, Will Mount
Heavier Armament Than
Fleet to Be Sent
to Pacific.

Times-Dispatch Bureau,
Munsey Building,
Washington, D. C., Sept. 14.
It may surprise the average reader
to learn that the destructive power of
the Atlantic fleet, which will be sent
to the Pacific in December, great as it
is, is little, if any, greater than the
one under construction. The equality
is not in point of tonnage, but in the
power of the armament.

In tonnage, the fleet of Admiral
Evans considerably surpasses the ton-
nage of the fleet building. The At-
lantic fleet, which will be sent to the
Pacific, is, in round numbers, 250,000
tons, while that of the fleet now being
built is 150,000 tons. The percentage of
big guns per ton of displacement will
be very much greater in the new fleet
than that of the Atlantic fleet.

The tonnage of the vessels now un-
der construction is three times that of
all the armored vessels in the Ameri-
can navy at the outbreak of the war
with Spain. I cannot think of any way
of stating more forcibly the facts than
will be the largest and most powerful
ever assembled, probably, and yet the
one least feared, in the history of the
navy. The fleet to be sent to the Pacific
is more powerful than the entire navy
of the country less than ten years ago.
It is hard to realize that this country
has been carrying out such a liberal
naval program during the past decade.

Nine years ago the advocates of a
big navy, the most enthusiastic of
them, thought that when the country
got twenty-five battleships it would
not need to build any more. There are
twenty-four battleships in the navy
now and six armored cruisers. There is
not one of the armored cruisers that
is not a more powerful fighting ma-
chine than any of the battleships of
1895.

But there is no talk now of limiting
the number of battleships or armored
cruisers, nor much prospect of limit-
ing their size. The nation is already
building a 20,000-ton battleship, and
constructors are designing vessels of
25,000 tons displacement. The 20,000-
ton battleship will be completed in
the next year.

So far from limiting the size of
battleships, it is believed the construc-
tion department of the navy is willing
to increase the size to any extent, pro-
vided Congress will give the money
to dredge out harbors, so as to accom-
modate the giant warships.

The Lusitania, the liner, whose
maiden trip across the Atlantic has just
attracted international attention, al-
ready requires forty feet of water to
clear her stern, and the new battleships
will be about all that will limit the
size of warships in the future, as
America is concerned, at any rate.

The fleet which the United States
is building will be larger and more
powerful than any other navy in the
world. It will be the most powerful
fleet that has ever been assembled.
The fleet to be sent to the Pacific
will be the most powerful fleet that
has ever been assembled.

Admiral Evans' fleet, which he will
take to the Pacific, carries two 12-
inch rifles and sixteen 13-inch.
The latter are obsolete, and some of
the twelve-inch guns are not much
better. The fleet to be sent to the
Pacific will be the most powerful fleet
that has ever been assembled.

The fleet now building represents the
finest work ever undertaken by the
construction department of the navy.
The fleet to be sent to the Pacific
will be the most powerful fleet that
has ever been assembled.

MAN WHO HAD HIS GRAVE DUG
PARALYZED ON THE STREET.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
WINCHESTER, Va., September 14.—
John Woomer, a well-known citizen, was
paralyzed in the street to-day and is in
a precarious condition. Woomer re-
cently caused his grave to be dug and
a handsome monument erected in Mt.
Hebron cemetery.

Captain Rowe Chief Marshal.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
FREDERICKSBURG, Va., September
14.—Captain M. B. Rowe has been ap-
pointed chief marshal at the fair to be
held here beginning September 24th,
and holding for three days.

BAD INFLUENCES AND DRINK LEAD TO AWFUL CRIME

W. B. Patterson, Sailor of the
Navy, Makes Full Written
Confession.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NORFOLK, Va., September 14.—The
self-confessed murderer of Agrippa
Jones, W. B. Patterson, a sailor in the
United States Navy, in the Police Court
to-day waived examination and was
held for the Corporation Court.

Two witnesses were examined—El-
dridge and Brooks. They testified, to
having seen Patterson strike the fatal
blow. The written confession of Pat-
terson was also introduced.

It told of a homeless boy, led astray
by bad influences and drink, and frank-
ly acknowledged the crime.

Patterson denied, however, hitting
Jones with anything but his fist, and
claims that he had no other motive
than robbery.

The coroner's jury to-day brought
in a verdict that Jones came to his
death by blows inflicted by W. B.
Patterson.

The prisoner showed no emotion
during the short trial. He quietly
stood before the bar when arraigned
and betrayed but little interest in the
proceedings.

Jones was killed last Monday and
his murderer was captured by Detective
Harry Hoots, who was on duty at the
receiving ship Franklin Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Cleveland does not quite ap-
preciate his condition, but Mrs. Cleveland
does.

"No communication of public or pri-
vate importance are now submitted to
Mr. Cleveland."

Mrs. Cleveland is acting practically as
his confidential adviser and secretary
in all matters, and she is fully
acquainted with her husband's real con-
dition.

"Mr. Cleveland has remained at his
home, and all business of the
Cleveland children have been at Mr.
Cleveland's New Hampshire home with
their grandmother."

Mrs. Cleveland has believed it to be
necessary to remain with her husband
at Princeton.

Mr. Cleveland has believed it to be
necessary to remain with her husband
at Princeton.

DEADLOCK BROKEN SCHOOLS TO OPEN

Danville Board of Aldermen
Gives Way to School Board.
Appropriation Made.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
DANVILLE, Va., September 14.—The
long-drawn fight between the board of
school trustees and the Board of Al-
dermen over the appropriations for the
public schools, which prevented the
schools from opening on September 2d,
was ended, except the matter of the
schools will open next Monday morn-
ing, after the small boy has had his
holiday prolonged for two weeks.

The school board asked for an ap-
propriation of \$20,000, which amount in-
cludes \$15,000 as salary for Superintendent
of Schools William Holmes Davis,
who also receives \$75 from the State.

The Aldermen refused to adopt the
appropriation, half of them contending
that the salary asked for the superin-
tendent was too large. Both sides
stood pat, and in the meantime the
children were prevented from having
educational facilities. Several nights
ago a mass-meeting of the citizens was
held, at which time a resolution re-
questing the Aldermen to grant the ap-
propriation asked for by the school
board was adopted.

At a meeting of the Board of Al-
dermen last night everything
was passed except the matter of the
superintendent's salary. At a special
meeting this afternoon the entire bill
was passed. Several of the members
who have stood out strong in the fight
changed their vote.

MRS. MYERS FALLS
THOUSAND FEET
Professional Balloonist Dashed to
Death in View of 8,000
Horror-Stricken People.

OLEAN, N. Y., September 14.—Mrs.
Carrie Myers, thirty-three years old,
of Springfield, Mass., a professional
balloonist, fell from a parachute 1,000
feet above the fair grounds here to-
day and was dashed to death in view
of 8,000 persons.

Mrs. Myers made her first ascent
here Wednesday when she sprained her
left wrist. On Friday she made
another ascension, using a life belt
attached to the parachute trapeze as
precaution.

Mrs. Myers was asked to use the life
belt again to-day, but refused, saying
her wrist felt strong.

When about 2,000 feet above the fair
grounds this afternoon, Mrs. Myers cut
loose from the balloon with a double
parachute. The web of canvas spread
out and Mrs. Myers was seen to re-
lease her right hand to release the second
and smaller parachute, holding on to
the trapeze rope with her left hand.
Just as the canvas spread out and the
rapid downward flight of the parachute
was suddenly checked Mrs. Myers fell
over backward. It is believed the
sudden jar hurt her lame wrist. Her
body struck just outside the fair
grounds fence.

Old Woman Hurt.
Jennie Carter, a sixty-year-old col-
ored woman, on her way to market
with her basket, last night, was
knocked down by a wagon on Seven-
teenth Street. She did not seem to be
seriously hurt, but Dr. Woodson, of the
city ambulance corps, decided to take
her to the City Hospital for further
treatment, and see if any internal in-
juries resulted.

A THRILLING RIDE ABOVE SNOW CLOUDS

Wellman Tells of the Per-
ilous Journey of His
Airship in a Storm.

DRIVEN BY WIND UPON MOUNTAINS

The Airship America, Lost in
Blinding Storm Above Polar
Sea and Threatened With
Destruction, Is Finally
Landed Without In-
jury to Wellman.

BERLIN, September 14.—Walter
Wellman, head of the Wellman Record-
Herald polar expedition, has sent the
following cablegram to the Lokal
Anzeiger from Tromsøe:

"After the steamer Express cast off
the cable the balloon America did ex-
cellently, but an increasing wind soon
gave us a hard struggle and the storm
drove us toward some jagged moun-
tains near the coast, where the airship
would have been destroyed if she
struck. There then ensued a hard
fight between the storm and the motor.
The latter triumphed, and we slowly
rounded the north end of Foul Island
in the teeth of the wind and con-
tinued in the America had so increased
in the meanwhile that I gave the order
to start for the North Pole.

"The wind, however, increased to
twenty miles an hour and the snow fell
so thickly that we could not see a
quarter of a mile. Just then the com-
pass failed to act owing to defective
construction. We were completely lost
in a snowstorm above the Polar Sea
and threatened with destruction. After
a brief deliberation we decided to try
to get back to the Express to rectify
our compass and start again.

At Mercy of Winds.
"It was impossible, however, to keep
in one direction, and we were again
carried into dangerous proximity to
the mountains. Vaniman, the engineer,
then made the motor run at top speed,
and the America moved a second time
against the wind, which grew whistling
fifteen miles an hour. She
circled three times in the teeth of the
wind. We saw the Express for a mo-
ment, but immediately lost her again.
We could have returned to the Express
if we could have seen where to steer.
So unvarying had been her experi-
ence of the night before that Miss
Figg told intimate friends yesterday
that she could not then give a
clear account of the adventure. She
said that when she saw the negro in
the doorway, her first intention had
been to jump from the window, which
she had opened to call to her mother,
who was in the room below.

Residents along the block for a con-
siderable distance heard the cries of
the young lady, and many of the men
were soon on the scene to assist in a
search for the intruder.

Dr. Flake notified the police of the
affair, and gave a description of the
negro, who was big and black. Though
no light touch had been made, it is believed
that the would-be thief is a profes-
sional porch-climber or second-story
burglar, and that snatch-thefting was
the purpose of the entry into the home.
Nothing had been taken from the prem-
ises, nor were any locks broken by the
negro in making his entrance. As the
house was lighted in several places,
and neighbors were constantly passing,
it is believed that the man must have
entered with the intention of sneaking
through the second floor and stealing
such jewelry and valuables as came
within his hand, thinking that the fam-
ily were all asleep.

He is described by Miss Figg as a
big, black, burly negro, wearing a light
slouch hat.

Both Plead Guilty.
Two men were sent on to the grand
jury from the Police Court yesterday
after pleading guilty to the charge of
breaking into residence and stealing
certain property in an offense which con-
stitutes burglary in Virginia, and
which, if proved to the satisfaction of
the jury, will probably land both men
in the penitentiary.

Albert Mead, colored, was charged
with breaking into the house occupied
by M. F. Mobley, on Eighth Street, and
taking therefrom a suit of clothes and
\$12 in money. Mead was arrested Fri-
day afternoon at the baseball park by
Detective Gibson, who had been on duty
there. He had gone out to the game
and had run across each other accidentally.

When confronted with the evidence
against him Mead pleaded guilty and
went on to the higher court. The other
man, who was in the Police
Court Friday morning, and was put
under bond for twelve months as a
suspicious character. Yesterday morn-
ing he was again in the court, and
pleaded guilty to the charge of break-
ing into the house of the Columbia
Shoe Factory. Sergeant McMahon
worked up the case, and Cross also
saw the uselessness of making a fight.
He pleaded guilty and will go before
the October grand jury in the Hustings
Court.

EXPRESS MESSENGERS ARRESTED.
Two Young White Men Locked Up by
Detectives on Suspicious Charge.

J. W. Arebaugh and G. C. Gibson,
two young white men employed as ex-
press messengers, and who make their
home in Richmond, were locked up last
night at the Second Police Station on
the charge of being suspicious charac-
ters.

The arrest was made by Detective
Sergeant Gibson, with the assistance of
Special Agent L. L. Scherer, of the
Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. The de-
tectives are making careful investigations,
with a view of making more specific charges
against the young men, who make their
home in Richmond, where they had not
been long. They had not been
locked up to midnight, and were
locked up at the Second Police Station.

PITTSBURGH MAN MAKES SIXTH
ATTEMPT TO KILL HIMSELF.
PITTSBURGH, Pa., September 14.—
The sixth attempt of George Protzman
to end his life failed to-day because of
the prompt efforts of the Allegheny
police and hospital physicians. Prot-
zman, who was locked up on a minor
charge, was found hanging to the bars
of the cell by his suspenders. He was
discovered by his windpipe had been in-
jured, preventing him from breathing.
The physicians rushed him to the hos-
pital, where he was cut free from the
suspenders and cut his throat. In-
serting a silver tube through the wind-
pipe, Protzman will recover.

SAW BLACK ROBBER IN A LOOKING-GLASS

Young Lady, Alone in Her
Room, Terrified by Ap-
pearance of a Negro.

NEIGHBORS ALL RUSHED TO HELP

Man Slid Down Pillar of Porch
and Made His Escape—The
Entire Community Has
Been Aroused by
Daring Attempt
at Burglary.

Residents in the neighborhood of
Lombardy Street and Floyd Avenue
were considerably alarmed on Friday
evening by the intrusion into a resi-
dence of a big black negro. Hereto-
fore this section of the city had been
subjected to the run of petty thievery
and negro invasions, which has seemed
to be almost epidemic in some quar-
ters, and the community was consid-
erably stirred, many of the ladies living
nearly declaring that they did not
sleep at all on Friday night.

The attempted robbery occurred at
No. 110 North Lombardy Street, a house
occupied at the time by Mrs. J. P.
Figg and her daughter. Shortly before
9 o'clock Friday evening Miss Figg
went to her room on the second floor.
A few moments later she was heard
to scream, and was seen by the neigh-
bors opposite leaning out of the front
window and calling for help. Dr. Wil-
liam C. Flake, a dentist living next
door, was one of the first to reach the
house, and, with Mrs. Figg, rushed up
to the young lady's room in time to
get a glimpse of a fleeing negro.

Saw Him in Glass.
When questioned Miss Figg was
able to tell them that as she was
dressing she saw in the glass the
form of a burly negro standing in the
doorway. Her vigorous screams and
the opening of the front window
frightened the man away, and as her
mother, with Dr. Flake, reached the
top of the stairs the marauder made
his way to a back porch at the end
of the hall. He slid down one of the
pillars of the porch to the ground, and
was last seen escaping through a side
alley, followed by several of the neigh-
bors, who had been quickly aroused.

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ence of the night before that Miss
Figg told intimate friends yesterday
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home in Richmond, were locked up last
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the charge of being suspicious charac-
ters.

WELL-KNOWN MAN ARRESTED



FRANK P. BURKE,
Superintendent of Station B of the Richmond post-office, who was arrested
yesterday, charged with opening and taking money from a letter.

DEFENDING YACHT MUST BE SEAGOING

Sir Thomas Lipton Adds This
Condition to His Challenge
for Cup.

WILL TRY TWO CHALLENGERS OF BOTH AND SELECT THE FASTER.

NEW YORK, September 14.—Sir
Thomas Lipton's challenge for the
America's cup was the chief subject of
conversation among yachtsmen in New
York to-day. Although the formal
challenge will not be received here
for four or five days, members of the
New York Yacht Club, the holder of
the trophy which the schooner America
brought from England in 1851, have
known for some weeks that it was to
be made and have already made plans
for the defense of the cup.

It is understood among members of
the New York Yacht Club that Sir
Thomas Lipton will add a number of
conditions to his challenge. One of
these is expected to be that the race
shall be under the new measurement
rule adopted by the New York Yacht
Club.

Under this rule the challenging yacht
would have a much better chance of
"lifting the cup," and the race would
be in all respects fair, as the deed of
the gift of the cup provides that the
challenger must cross the ocean. Under
the old measurement the yacht built
to defend the cup could be purely a
racing machine that after the races
would go to the junk heap, and that
could not stand the strain of a long
ocean trip. The application of the new
rule to the contest would eliminate
such machines, and put the defend-
er on a par with the challenger
in the matter of construction.

It is also said that Sir Thomas will
ask the privilege of challenging the
name of two yachts, the races to be
sailed with the one that proves the
better in the preliminary trials.

Plans are already well under way
looking to the building of yachts to
defend the cup. Four syndicates have
been formed in the New York Yacht
Club. It is said, for the purpose of
building yachts to contest the cup,
and it is believed by the club members that
at least six yachts will take part in
the elimination trials for the selection of
the defender.

It is probable that the races will be
sailed in August or early in September
next year.

NEGRO SHOTS TWO MEN DOWN

Narrowly Escapes Injury, if Not
Death, at Hands of Infuriated
Pennsylvanians.

CHESTER, Pa., September 14.—
William Wills, a negro, to-night ran
amuck in Market Street, this city, shot
two men, nearly hit several others, and
was after a narrow escape from being
killed if not killed at the hands of an
infuriated crowd.

Wills had words with William Allen,
another negro, in a restaurant, and
both went to the street to fight out.
Wills began shooting and struck Allen
three times. Deputy Sheriff Charles
Brown, who was passing at the time,
received a bullet in the neck. The
street was crowded at the time, and
several men had narrow escapes from
being shot.

BURKE ARRESTED ON GRAVE CHARGE

Superintendent of Station
B Is Alleged to Have
Rifled Letter.

GRAND JURY TO PROBE THE CASE

Accused Promptly Bailed for Ap-
pearance at October Term.
Man of Wide Popularity,
and Had Been in Gov-
ernment Service
14 Years.

Frank P. Burke, superintendent of
Station "B" of the Richmond post-
office, and one of the most widely
known residents of the city, was ar-
rested yesterday morning upon a war-
rant sworn out by Inspector F. R. Bar-
clay, charging him with "having
opened and taken money from a let-
ter." The superintendent, upon whose
person was found an opened decoy
letter, and marked money which the
letter is alleged to have contained a
short time before, was at once taken
before United States Commissioner
James P. Brady for a preliminary
hearing. He waived examination, and
was sent on to the grand jury, which
meets here on October 17th.

Bail was fixed by the commissioner
at \$1,000, and the prisoner was re-
leased, Messrs. R. Lee Peters and E.
A. Stumpf becoming surety. The ar-
rest caused a profound sensation, as
Burke has been in the government
service for about fourteen years, and
was one of the most widely known and
popular postal officials here. Mr. H.
M. Smith, a long-time friend of the
arrested, promptly offered his services
as counsel, and Mr. George A. Hanson
was later associated with Mr. Smith.

Many Letters Missing.
The circumstances leading up to the
arrest of the former superintendent are
full of interest. For some months
complaints have been coming in to
the post-office division, that letters
in the East End of the city, where
Station B is situated, and the depart-
ment a few days ago sent down two
special inspectors, E. R. Barclay and
J. E. Robertson, to look into the case.
They had been on the ground but a
short time when their suspicions fell
upon the station superintendent. Ar-
rangements were at once made for a
decoy test. At an hour when all the
clerks and carriers were away from the
office, a letter was dropped into the
office addressed to "Annette Glick,
Frederick, Md." This letter contained
two one-dollar notes, and a silver half-
dollar, all of which were distinctly
marked.

In the absence of the clerks it was
a part of the superintendent's duties
to handle incoming letters, and to ar-
range them for post-marking.

Used Marked Money.
The inspectors waited in the neigh-
borhood until the clerks returned, and
they saw Mr. Burke, who was alone in
the office, open the letter, and take the
money. The inspectors then waited
until Mr. Burke had finished his
shave, and discovered that he had
paid for the service with a marked \$1,
which the inspectors had placed in the
letter. The inspectors then waited
until Mr. Burke had finished his
shave, and discovered that he had
paid for the service with a marked \$1,
which the inspectors had placed in the
letter.

Postmaster Cabell was at once not-
ified, and he went to the scene and
placed the superintendent under de-
tention. Inspector Barclay then went
to the Police Division, and swore out
the warrant described above, which
was executed at 11 o'clock by Deputy
Marshal John A. Murphy.

Mr. Burke held a conference with
his brother-in-law, Mr. R. A. Burke,
and his counsel, Mr. Smith, and when the
case was called he waived examination
and was sent on. He declined to make
any statement whatever for publica-
tion, preferring to leave this to his
counsel.

The matter will go to the grand
jury on October 17th, and if the accus-
ed is sent on his case will come before
Judge Edmund Magill in the United
States District Court.

The alleged crime is in violation of
section 5487 of the Revised Statutes
of the United States, which fixes the
penalty for the offense at one to ten
years in the penitentiary, in the
discretion of the court.

Is Widely Known.
Frank P. Burke, who is a man of
about fifty years of age, was born in
Essex county, though he came to Rich-
mond when quite a youth. He was for
a long time manager for Captain A.
Burke, when the latter conducted a
large confectionery store on Broad
Street, and later he succeeded to the
ownership of the store. He was active
in Democratic politics, and represented
Clay Ward both in the Council and on the Board
of Fire Commissioners.

When the late William H. Culling-
worth was made postmaster under Mr.
Cleveland's second administration, Mr.
Burke was appointed superintendent of
the Police Division. He was later
promoted to superintendent of
free delivery in the main office, which
position he held until April 1, 1907,
when he was transferred to the super-
intendency of Station B, where he was
arrested yesterday morning.

Mr. Burke, chief clerk of Station
B, has been put in charge as su-
perintendent pending a permanent ap-
pointment by the postmaster.

Mr. H. M. Smith, a life-long friend
of Mr. Burke, was seen last night and
asked if he had any statement to
make concerning the case of his
client.

It is not care to talk for publica-
tion at this time," declared the law-
yer, "further than to say that I shall
make the fight of my life for Mr.
Burke, and I believe he will be
exonerated from the charge against
him. My long friendship for him and
my best efforts in his behalf, and I will
fight for him to the very end."
Mr. Smith said that George A. Han-
son will be associated with him in
the case, and he will work untiringly
for the interests of Mr. Burke.